

K.C. 4781 (K.C. No. 17,028)

PATENT

Please replace claim 6 with the following:

7. (amended) A process as set forth in claim 6 wherein said aqueous suspension has a pH of about 5.5 after said boric acid is introduced into said suspension.

Please replace claim 7 with the following:

8. (amended) A process as set forth in claim 1 wherein said boric acid is introduced into said aqueous suspension in an amount from about 5 to about 20% by weight of papermaking fibers present in said aqueous suspension.

Please replace claim 8 with the following:

9. (amended) A process as set forth in claim 8 wherein said boric acid is introduced into said aqueous suspension in an amount from about 10 to about 15% by weight of papermaking fibers present in said aqueous suspension.

Please replace claim 9 with the following:

10. (amended) A process as set forth in claim 1 wherein the temperature of said heated air is at least about 190°C.

Please cancel claim 11.

Please replace claim 12 with the following:

12. (amended) A process as set forth in claim 10 wherein the temperature of said heated air is from about 190° to about 210°C.

Please replace claim 13 with the following:

15. (amended) A process for making a cellulosic paper product, the process comprising:

forming an aqueous suspension of papermaking fibers;  
introducing boric acid into said aqueous suspension;  
depositing said aqueous suspension onto a sheet-forming fabric to form a wet web, said boric acid being introduced into said aqueous suspension prior to depositing said aqueous suspension onto said sheet-forming fabric; and

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through-drying said wet web by passing heated air through said wet web.

Please cancel claims 24 and 25.

Please add the following new claims 26-28.

26. (new) A process for manufacturing a cellulosic paper product, the process comprising:

forming an aqueous suspension of papermaking fibers;  
introducing boric acid into said aqueous suspension in an amount from about 5 to about 20% by weight of papermaking fibers present in said aqueous suspension;

depositing said aqueous suspension onto a sheet-forming fabric to form a wet web, said boric acid being introduced into said aqueous suspension prior to depositing said aqueous suspension onto said sheet-forming fabric; and

dewatering and drying said wet web.

27. (new) A process as set forth in claim 26 wherein said boric acid is introduced into said aqueous suspension in an amount from about 10 to about 15% by weight of papermaking fiber present in said aqueous suspension.

28. (new) A process as set forth in claim 26 wherein said wet web is through-dried by passing heated air through said wet web.